

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bradley for the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 5-8, 22-25, 60-63, 79-82 and 98-101.

Claims 1-111 are pending in the action of which claims 9-17, 27-55, 65-74, 84-93 and 102-110 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 18, 37, 56, 75 and 94 are independent. Claim 18 is amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claim 18 is objected to because of minor informalities.

Claims 1-4, 18-21, 26, 56-59, 64, 75-78, 83 and 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0093629 to **Chen**.

Claims 94-97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over **Chen** in view of USP No. 5,913,215 to **Rubinstein**.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-4, 18-21, 26, 56-59, 64, 75-78, 83 and 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Chen. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites in part identifying a data element in an allocation register having a value corresponding to an available buffer, and changing the value of the data element to a value corresponding to an allocated buffer.

In the statement of rejection, the Examiner points the Applicants to paragraphs [0020] and [0021] of Chen as allegedly disclosing the foregoing features. *See* page 3, 4th paragraph of the Office Action.

As discussed in paragraph [0021] and the neighboring sections, Chen uses a bit masker 202 to identify segments (e.g., segments 32.0001-32.0351 and 32.0355-32.2048) in the buffer memory 32 that have been allocated.

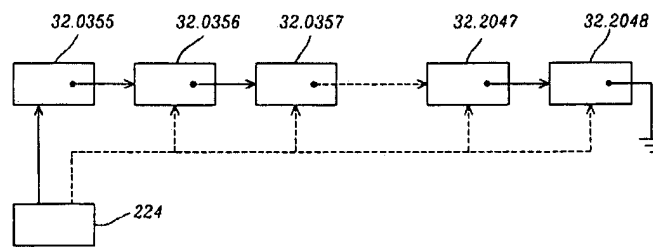


FIG. 6

As shown in FIG. 6 above, Chen's segments (e.g., 32.0355-32.2048) are serially linked. To determine the availability of the segments, Chen employs a pointer 224 to always point to the first unused segment of the linked segments. *See* paragraph [0016]. As an example, if the segment 32.0355 is used for data processing, the pointer 224 then points to the segment 32.0356. *Id.* Applicants respectfully submit that Chen assigns no value to an available or allocated segment. Nor does Chen change such a value to one corresponding to an allocated buffer. Whether a segment has already been allocated is determined based on the segment at which the pointer is pointed (e.g., since the pointer 224 is always pointing at an unused segment), and not based on a value that has been assigned to the segment.

It should be noted that a pointer's value is an address of a variable or constant to which the pointer points. An address indicates, for example, a memory location where the variable resides. In this regard, even if the Examiner were to argue that a pointer points to (or is) an address, Chen fails to teach or suggest that such an address represents a value of an allocated or available buffer.

Further, Applicants also note that Chen's buffer controller 22 uses a plurality of bits to record the status of the segments in the buffer memory 32. *See* paragraph [0021]. Chen, however, provides no teaching or suggestion of assigning a value to these bits when, for example, a segment corresponding to a bit of the buffer controller 22 has been allocated.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 111 depend from claim 1, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 18

Claim 18 recites in part a buffer manager to identify a data element in an allocation register having a value corresponding to an available buffer, and change the value of the data element to a value corresponding to an allocated buffer.

As discussed above, Chen does not teach or suggest at least these features. For at least the reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen also does not anticipate claim 18.

Claims 19-21 and 26 depend from claim 18, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 18.

Claim 56

Claim 56 recites in part a buffer management module to identify a data element in the allocation register having a value corresponding to an available buffer, and change the value of the data element to a value corresponding to an allocated buffer.

As discussed above, Chen does not teach or suggest at least these features. For at least the reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen also does not anticipate claim 56.

Claims 57-59 and 64 depend from claim 56, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 56.

Claim 75

Claim 75 recites in part a buffer manager including means for identifying a data element in an allocation register having a value corresponding to an available buffer, and changing the value of the data element to a value corresponding to an allocated buffer.

As discussed above, Chen does not teach or suggest at least these features. For at least the reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen also does not anticipate claim 75.

Claims 76-78 and 83 depend from claim 75, and also are submitted to be allowable for at

least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 75.

Claim 94

Claim 94 recites in part identifying a data element in an allocation register having a value corresponding to an available buffer; and changing the value of said data element to a value corresponding to an allocated buffer.

As discussed above, Chen does not teach or suggest at least these features. For at least the reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 94, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen also does not anticipate claim 94.

Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 94-97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over **Chen** in view of **Rubinstein**.

Claim 94 recites in part a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to perform operations comprising identifying a data element in an allocation register having a value corresponding to an available buffer, and changing the value of said data element to a value corresponding to an allocated buffer.

As discussed above, Chen does not teach or suggest at least these features. Rubinstein is directed to providing search engines that return relevant web pages based on user search queries, not memory allocation. Accordingly, Rubinstein does not cure the deficiencies of Chen.

Claims 95-97 depend from claim 94, and also are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 94.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that all pending claims be allowed.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, Applicants' arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

If necessary, please apply charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 6, 2009

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